AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS (THIS LISTING REPLACES ALL PRIOR VERSIONS):

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

processing information about network faults that contribute to a failure of a network element in which the faults are occurring,

based on the results of the information processing, generating traps with respect to fewer than all of the faults that are occurring, and

sending the traps to a network management station with respect to fewer than all of the faults that are occurring, based on the results of the information processing.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information is processed using a directed acyclic graph.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 in which nodes of the graph represent entities of the network element.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the result of the processing comprises information about the causal relationships among at least some of the faults.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which traps are sent generated with respect to faults that have a causal relationship to other faults and traps are not sent generated with respect to at least some of the other faults.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 also including

requesting fault information from an entity that is part of the network element and which has not triggered a fault notice to determine if there is a fault associated with the network element.

7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising

at a network management station, receiving traps sent from network elements, the traps including information about <u>root cause</u> ~~at least some~~ faults occurring in entities of the network elements, the traps not including information about at least some <u>cascading</u> faults, <u>triggered by</u> the <u>root cause faults,</u> occurring in the entities.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 also including

reporting the traps to an operator of the network management station.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising

a network element having

network entities that are subject to faults, the faults of at least some of the network entities <u>cause or are caused by</u> faults of at least some others of the network entities, and

a medium bearing information capable of configuring a machine in the network element to ~~send~~ <u>generate</u> traps based on the causal relationships to a network management station.

11. (Currently Amended) A medium bearing information capable of configuring a machine to determine ~~causal relationships among~~ <u>whether faults cause or are caused by other</u> faults occurring in entities of a network element.

12. (Original) The medium of claim 11 in which the information comprises a directed acyclic graph of nodes.

13. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

processing information about network faults that contribute to a failure of a network element in which the faults are occurring,

based on the results of the information processing, generating traps with respect to root cause faults and not with respect to at least some cascading faults triggered by root cause faults, and

sending the traps to a network management station with respect to root cause faults and not with respect to at least some cascading faults triggered by root cause faults, based on the results of the information processing.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein one fault directly causes another fault or is directly caused by another fault.